

# BiNet News

A Publication of the Bisexual Network of the USA

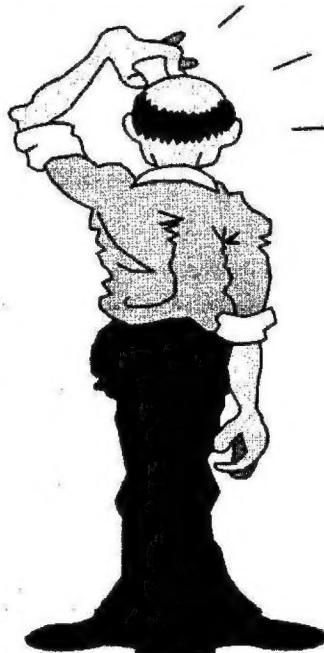
Summer 1996

## Help Wanted: *Seeking BiNet USA National Coordinators, Regional Delegates and Volunteers*

By Stephanie Berger

In the last edition of BiNet News a nomination form was included for the vacant National Coordinator positions. Currently three out of the six positions will be vacant as of the upcoming Annual meeting in San Francisco. You may be wondering if this is something you want to do, or if you are ready for what seems like a whole heap load more of work and aggravation. Questions I've been asked by several people who are interested in running seem to fall into two categories -- "What do you do anyway?" and, "How much time will it take?" So, with that in mind, I'd like to shed some light on the role of national coordinator, based on solely on my experience of the past year, which is probably different from the experience of my other five colleagues. Kind of sounds like the definition of bisexuality, doesn't it?

I'd like to start by admitting that I'm not so sure the current national coordinators have been very effective as an official body, which has been very frustrating for me personally. This is not to say that BiNet as a whole has not had an impact in the past year. One of our difficulties is that we are still trying to figure out who we are and what our role is. Having spoken with several former national coordinators -- this seems to be historical problem. I think this issue probably has more to do with BiNet's growing pains, obscure Bylaws regarding National Coordinators, and the lack of a coherently articu-



lated vision, than because of any one person or persons. Great opening for a recruitment pitch, huh?

With all that said, I do see the coming year as one of real transition and growth. I think we as an organization and commu-

**We are here to help facilitate movement in various communities, whether that means brainstorming with regional reps around fundraising or outreach ideas, or going into people's communities directly to help organize...**

nity have a better sense of who we are and what we need. One of the things we need to do now is focus on how to get it. And I truly believe that BiNet can be one of the vehicles in which we can get there. Several people have already been coming forward to take on key roles outside of the sextet which are vital to our growth -- Gerard Palmeri (San Francisco) is the membership list coordinator, Barry Saiff (from DC) will be taking on the formidable task of fundraising, Eve Diana (Boston) is proofreading and copy-editing BiNet News, Wendy Naumann (Nebraska) is the BiNet News Regional News Editor and Michael Szymanski (Los Angeles) will be joining me on the media team.

With one year of the national thing under my belt, I, personally, have a clearer vision of what I need to do as well as some future directions for the sextet. My focus is going to be on strengthening our commitment to regional leaders and figuring out a way to better articulate the mission and vision of BiNet. One of our main

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## **BiNet News**

The Newsletter of the  
Bisexual Network of the United States

### **Editrix**

Alexei Guren

### **Regional News Editor**

Wendy Naumann

### **Proof Reading and Copy Editor**

Eve Diana

### **Production and Layout**

Alexei Guren

### **Columnists**

Lani Ka'ahumanu

Fritz Klein

### **Contributors**

Stephanie Berger

Michael Szymanski

Liz Highleyman

Jeff Walsh

Arthur Freehart

Maurice Snellen

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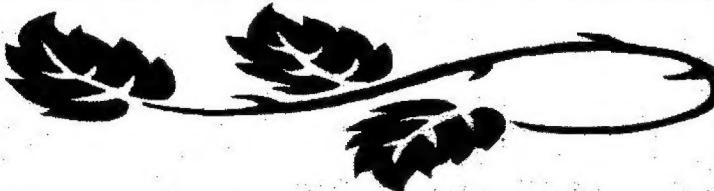
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Letters, cartoons, photographs and articles are encouraged  
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## **BiNet USA Coordinators**

Stephanie Berger

Arthur Freehart

Alexei Guren

Laura Perez

Gary North

Victor Raymond

## **BiNet USA Delegates**

### **Northeast Region:**

Kirstin Isgro & Emily Pitts

### **Tri-State Region:**

Jennifer Hadlock & Juno Stewart

### **Mid-Atlantic Region:**

Marcella Bucknam & Margaret Rood

### **South Central Region:**

Debra Dixon & David Lewis

### **Southeast Region:**

Kate Clemm & Carla Fischer

### **Central Region:**

Vacant Positions

### **Southwest Region:**

Ron Owens & Linda Farrelly

### **Northwest Region:**

Vacant Positions

### **Midwest Region:**

Wendy Naumann & Vacant Position

### **Pacific Coast and Islands Region:**

Francine Turner & Roland Sintos Coloma

(See Page 10 for contact information)

## **1996/7 DEADLINES:**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<b>Fall (Nov)</b>	<b>Oct 1st</b>
<b>Winter 97 (Feb)</b>	<b>Dec. 1st</b>
<b>Spring 97 (May)</b>	<b>Apr. 1st</b>
<b>Summer 97 (Aug)</b>	<b>Jul. 1st</b>

# RANTING FROM THE EDITRIX

Greetings!

Well Hi there once again, by the time many of you receive this the Annual Meeting of BiNet USA may have come and gone by. I'm hoping that this year we will be able to come together and take a very hard look at our organization and begin to dialogue about what things are working and what things are not, and what we need to do to remedy them. I'm hoping that we will begin to seriously look at what kinds of things we wish to accomplish as a National Bi organization.

This issue's cover article is by BiNet Coordinator Stephanie Berger. In it she shares some of her concerns and vision for BiNet USA's future. I would like to add that I too have been concerned by the lack of energy coming out of BiNet USA this past year because of all of *outgrowing pains*. " But after seeing the new slate of nominations for National Coordinators I have a strong feel that 1997 is going to be one of those hallmark moments in BiNet USA activism! Congratulations to all the nominees, and good luck in the election which will have been held at this year's Annual Meeting in San Francisco ... in our next issue we will be announcing the new National Coordinators as well as some biographical information, and who knows ... maybe I can get them to write a bit more about themselves as well <grin>!

Another National Coordinator, Arthur Freehart, has penned another piece on working more closely with rural communities... not a bad idea, considering most of this country is rural! 1995 saw BiNet USA create the Bisexual Youth Initiative... perhaps we also have some individuals out there that would be interested in doing something similar... dare I say, create the Rural Bisexual Organizing Project! There certainly has been enough chatter about it on the Internet, and I'm sure it's a topic that will be discussed at the Annual Meeting. If you're interested in being involved and won't be at the Annual Meeting, send in a letter stating your interest... we'll forward it off to the group interested in doing this kind of work.

And for those of you that like to plan things way in advance ... Apparently Atlanta will not be hosting the 1997 BiNet USA Annual Meeting due to logistical problems. After having dealt with the Olympics, it's not to hard to understand. Currently Orlando has stepped forward to host the Annual and wants it to coincide with Gay Day at Disney World ... seems all those Gay and Lesbian Organizers have a problem with the "B" word ... what a wonderful opportunity for us all to come together and create a very visible presence and have fun ... and even better I can bring my daughter and well! I mean how much more child friendly can you get than Disney! Besides I've often wondered about some of the characters down there ... I'm not positive, but I definitely think Mickey has Bi potential!

Well, I gotta run ... If you want to call or send me stuff, you'll find my phone and address in the Contact Pages or you can e-mail me at: <[alexei\\_guren@msn.com](mailto:alexei_guren@msn.com)>



## ***BiNet USA's Mission***

is to collect and distribute information regarding Bisexuality; to facilitate the development of Bisexual community and visibility; to work for the equal rights and liberation of Bisexuals and all oppressed peoples; and to eradicate all forms of oppression inside and outside the Bisexual community. We are committed to being affirmatively inclusive of a multicultural constituency and political agenda.

BiNet News is a publication of BiNet USA. It is sent to individuals and groups who have become members of BiNet USA, to Bi and LesBiGay groups in areas with few networking resources, and to groups with whom we are building relations via newsletter exchanges, etc. If you would like to be receiving this newsletter by mail, please join BiNet.

Membership is open to everyone who agrees with our purpose and pays annual dues (or if unable to pay, requests a waiver.) Individuals are asked to contribute \$1 per \$1,000 of yearly income. Groups are asked to contribute \$25-100. Please be as generous as you can! Your dues pay for copying and postage for the newsletter and other literature, the P.O. Box, conference calls for the coordinating committee, and occasional special events or needs.

Please contribute materials for publication! We need: Articles, poetry, feedback, newsclips, announcements, letters to the Editrix, graphics, photos, etc. Contributions on computer disk make us particularly happy (DOS/Windows format - Word, WordPerfect, ASCII, Plain Text, TIF, CGM, WPG on 3½ or 5¼ Disk) but typed or neatly written material is great too. Try to send copies, rather than originals; send hard copy along with Disks; let us know what you want returned. Thanks!!!

*(Continued from page 1)*

charges has been to maintain BiNet on an administrative level. Our main contact with each other is through monthly conference calls. We have secretaries, a treasurer, a media person and so on. On a more conceptual level we have been charged with, by the delegate body, to be the mouthpiece and point person for the larger organization; we are the ears and mouth for the rest of the body. We are here to support regional reps by gathering information through the clearing house approach, then getting that information back to the rest of the country. We are here to help facilitate movement in various communities, whether that means brainstorming with regional reps around fundraising or outreach ideas, or going into people's communities directly to help organize, as well as getting needed resources out, i.e. national contacts, the press kit etc. I'd like to think I use my role as national coordinator as a way to empower regional reps and help them blow off steam and work off the frustrations. We can always do a better job in all these areas.

Being a national coordinator has allowed me to hook into a whole network of bi activists that I would probably never knew existed otherwise, which has been an incredible experience for me personally and politically. I've learned a lot about myself, and have grown as a leader and organizer. The lessons I've learned from other people and the contacts I've made have been indispensable. You may be wondering if you are ready -- but beyond the basic administrative requirements it really is what you make of it!

In closing, I'd like to list how the national coordinator as an "official" body is defined by the BiNet Bylaws (edited version).

## Article 6              National Coordinators

### Section 6.1

Number and Titles.

The National Coordinators of the Corporation shall be six (6) persons, including the Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and such other Officers with such powers and duties not inconsistent with these Bylaws as may be appointed and determined by the Delegate Body. No more than two (2) offices may be held by the same person.

### Section 6.2

Election, Term of Office, and Qualifications.

The National Coordinators shall be elected annually by the Membership in attendance at the annual meeting of the Corporation, or by mail ballot administered by the National Coordinator or members of the Delegate Body. (Adopted November 1994)

### Section 6.3

General Responsibilities. (Adopted July 1992)

The National Coordinators are responsible for ensuring that the vision and activities defined by the general membership are carried out by BiNet USA. It will perform various national administrative, organizing and coordination responsibilities.

### Section 6.4

Vacancies.

In the event that any office of the Corporation shall become vacant by death, resignation, retirement, disqualification, or any other cause, the majority of the Delegates then in office, although less than a quorum, may elect a person to fill such vacancy, and the person so elected shall hold office and serve until the election and qualification of her successor.

### Section 6.5

Chairperson.

A chairperson selected by the National Coordinators at each meeting shall preside at the following meeting of the National Coordinators.

### Section 6.6

Secretary.

The Secretary shall have charge of books, documents, and papers as the Delegate Body may determine and shall have the custody of the corporate seal. He shall attend and keep the minutes of all the meetings of the Delegate Body. He may sign with any two of the National Coordinators, in the name and on behalf of the Corporation, any contracts or agreements authorized by the Delegate Body, and when so authorized or ordered by the Delegate

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*Now Available*

## Bisexual Resource Guide

*Robyn Ochs, editor*

Contains:

- listings of more than 1,400 bi and les-bi-gay groups in over 20 countries
- an annotated bibliography of recommended books dealing with bisexuality, including information on forthcoming publications.
- a guide to recommended films
- information on merchandise available (buttons, t-shirts, books, etc.)
- safer sex information
- upcoming conferences, calls for papers, etc.

The Bisexual Resource Guide, published by the Bisexual Resource Center, is available for only US\$8, postage paid. To order YOUR copy, send a check, along with your address to:

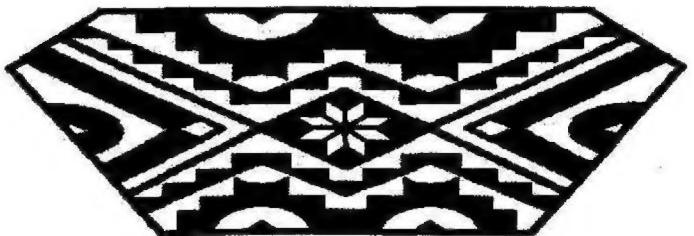
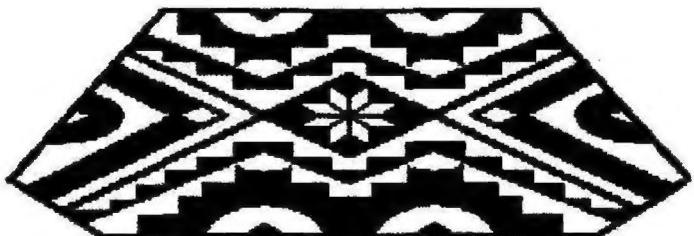
**BRG  
PO Box 639  
Cambridge MA 02140, USA**

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Body, he may affix the seal of the Corporation. He shall, in general, perform all the duties incident to the office of Secretary, subject to the control of the Delegate Body, and shall do such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Delegate Body.

#### Section 6.7 Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall have the custody of all funds, property, and securities of the Corporation, subject to such regulations as may be imposed by the Delegate Body. She may be required to give bond for the faithful performance of her duties, in such sum and with such sureties as the Delegate Body may require. When necessary she may endorse on behalf of the Corporation for collection checks, notes, and other obligations, and shall deposit the same to the credit of the Corporation at such bank or banks or depository as the Delegate Body may designate. She shall sign all receipts and vouchers. She shall make such payments as may be necessary on behalf of the Corporation. She shall enter regularly on the books of the Corporation to be kept by her for the purpose full and accurate account of all moneys and obligations received and paid or incurred by her for or on account of the Corporation, and she shall exhibit such books at all reasonable times to any Delegate on application at the offices of the Corporation. She shall, in general, perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer, subject to the control of the Delegate Body.



## **BiNet USA Annual Meeting - Aug 16th-18th**

The Annual BiNet USA Business Meeting this year is being held in the Mission District of San Francisco. For those of you who attended the 1990 National Conference on Bisexuality, this should be familiar ground. The dates of the meeting are Friday, August 16th, through Sunday, August 18th at New College, 777 Valencia Street between 18th and 19th Streets.

If you have not pre-registered it is still a good idea to let us know if you are attending - you can either contact the registration coordinator, Gerard Palmeri, via e-mail at <gerard@slip.net> by phone 415/621-2535 or register on-site. It is important to have a sense of how many people will be attending because we are providing breakfast and snacks on Saturday and Sunday, and we also have several exercises built into the agenda that are number contingent.

The National Coordinators are making a special invitation to the Regional Delegates to come to SF early in order to attend several informal get-togethers on Friday afternoon with other Regional Delegates, as well as with the Sextet. We thought this could be an opportunity to brainstorm last minute agenda ideas and get to know each other in a more informal setting to strengthen our relationships.

Friday evening registration begins at 6pm. The welcoming reception and buffet, sponsored by BiPOL, starts at 6:30pm. We encourage everyone to attend. It's a good way to hook into the following day's events as well as relax with friends before we put you to work. ... That evening "The Geography of Our Desire: an evening of performance, dance, song, safer sex sluts, and surprises" will be presented by Ka'ahumanu Productions at 8pm in the theater space.

We realize that not everyone will be able to get into town Friday night so registration will be ongoing. Saturday promises to be an exciting day. We have several community building sessions in the works and four hands-on workshops, based on what came out of last year's Business Meeting. The business meeting will begin that afternoon starting off with elections for three National Coordinators (see cover article), and continue on Sunday morning at a reasonable hour because there is a dance at a local club on Saturday night.

We are expecting close to 90 participants - we hope you are one of them. STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!

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# *Building the Bi House*

By Michael Szymanski

It was a bit tongue-in-check when I said it at the Bisexual Conference in San Diego a few years ago, and I was a bit more serious when I repeated it in Long Beach earlier this year at a regional Bisexual Conference, but I meant it.

"We should all go back into our respective closets, go back to where you're most comfortable," I said to a shocked audience, "If you're more comfortable with straight friends, play hetero, if you're more gay, be gay, but don't say you're bisexual. There will never be a bisexual community, there will never be a bisexual culture. If you come out as bi, then you'll be dateless and lonely."

That, after all, was my experience. When I came out as bi on national television (and about a dozen times since), my hetero girlfriend couldn't handle it, my gay friends thought I abandoned them, and my family couldn't deal with it. I was hung out to dry, alone; waving a flag that had few supporters for a community that has, for the most part, been invisible I still feel that way, yet my house has become a congregating point for bisexual activists, and for that I'm glad. A recent informal pow-wow of bi leaders brought a few from the Orange County area, a few from San Francisco, Long Beach, San Diego, Palm Springs, the San Fernando Valley, Anaheim, Seattle, New York, Pasadena – from virtually everywhere.

And it was appropriately at my house, which has been dubbed "The House that Bisexuality Built" because my dad disowned me when I came out as bisexual. Since then, I've had Lani Kaahumanu, our bisexual spiritual leader, (co-author of the book "Bi Any Other Name"), stay here, as well as BiNet leaders Stephanie Berger, Alexei Guren, Long Beach activists Francine Turner and Gary North -- who began bisexual rap groups at the Long Beach center -- and a slew of others.

And, since then, my household has become totally bisexual. The bottom two floors of my duplex are rented by bisexual porn actress

Sharon Kane, whose titles include "Gilligan's Bi Land," "The Valley of the Bi Dolls," "Revenge of the Bi Dolls," "The Bi Valley," "Toys Bi Us," and many many more. Sharon not only helped start the trend of bisexual videos, but she started insisting on the use of condoms in bi and straight porn -- something the gay adult industry has done since the late 1980s, but the hetero side has yet to discover.

"It's amazing to me that there's such ignorance about safe sex among the people in the industry," Kane sighs. "And most of them are really bisexual. Most of the women have had sex with other women, and with men who are predominantly gay. Most of the macho male actors in hetero videos have sucked a cock in their day, too."

Kane loves men, and she loves women, too. And she's not afraid to admit it. She believes everyone is bisexual deep down. When asked, she says she's straight to the adult industry because it's less confusing that way. Also living in my household is John Sorozak, who is a bisexual therapist. He has had a 10-year relationship with a man, and most recently is seeing a woman, but is doing male intimacy workshops with gay men -- keeping his relationship with a woman a secret. When asked, he prefers people to think of him as gay -- because it's less confusing.

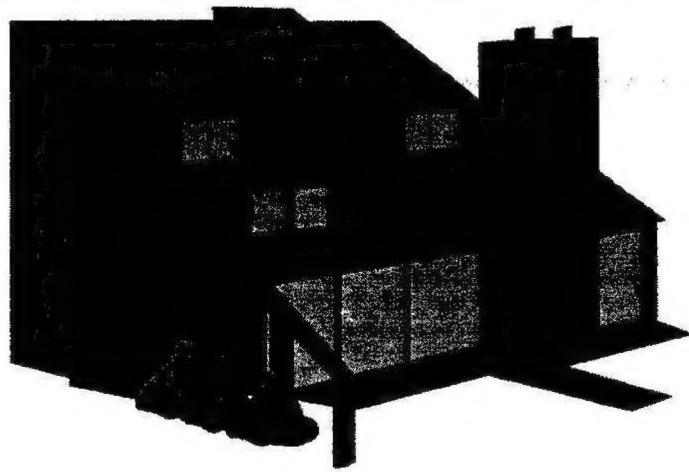
My point exactly. Bisexuals can fit into any or either group. That's why we're criticized more, that's why we're more invisible. But as much as I say there won't and can't be bisexual community, the more I'm proving that one does and can exist.

I live in the historic Whitley Heights neighborhood of the famed Hollywood Hills. I can see the third "O" of the HOLLYWOOD sign and smile about the fact that the two sexual liaisons I've had in that third "O" were once with a girl, and once with a guy. Bette Davis used to live across the street, Madonna's place is just over the hill, Errol Flynn's mansion is at the top of the hill, and Tyrone Powers lived here -- all, ironically, associated with bisexuality, at least as the gossip goes.

And so I sit in this five-level Mediterranean San Francisco style 1920's house that snakes high above the 39 geranium-lined steps to my front door. I have names stuck out in the flowerpots of friends of mine, famous and not, who have meant a lot to me and have died. Way too many of them have red ribbons attached.

As a free-lance writer, people are surprised that I own this house, but I paid for it, and that is a painful story, and one that I don't repeat too often. I got this house because I came out as bisexual. It was on my birthday September 1 two years ago that my Dad told me he didn't think I was his son. It was bad enough entering my third decade, but Dad declared, "You don't look like me, you don't act like me, I think your mother had an affair with the milkman. I want you to take a blood test to prove that you're not my son."

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"Being gay," he says, "is bad enough. But bisexual! That's absurd." The anger and hurt flushed into me again. I refused.

"I'll give you money," he said.

"You think you can buy me?"

"I'll give you \$10,000," he said soberly. I hesitated.

Until that moment, I had always felt accepted and part of our family. But now he seemed to be bribing my way out of the family because I'm going public as a bisexual I've written about it in magazines, gabbed about it on talk shows, defended it in forums, detailed it at lectures, and screamed about it to friends. If I wasn't biologically his son, he could explain it off to his friends and save face.

My Mom -- who came with me to the March on Washington and last year lectured with me at the Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays national conference -- explains my Dad's concerns. "If it's inborn and you can't choose who you like, that's something we can accept, but if you like both then you do have a choice, and he takes it personally if you choose a guy."

My Dad is more succinct: "If you can choose, why would you choose the wrong way?"

My Dad is an accountant and a miser, and doesn't like to throw around 10-grand, so I knew he must really want me to be tested. I also knew that I had to make a point.

"You'll have to pay," I warned. "You won't get this easily."

"Twenty grand?" he offered.

"Fifty," I countered. "I'll take your stupid blood test if you pay the down payment."

My Dad says flatly, "You're embarrassing the family."

So, the bottom line for Dad's irrational attitude toward me is the very same reason I'm criticized by friends in the homosexual community -- my chosen "family." My gay friends complain, "You're embarrassing (or diluting) 'the family'" or say, "Being bi is fine with me, but don't tell anyone else if you expect to get a date."

Truth is, I want a monogamous relationship with either a man or a woman and want to raise children with that partner no matter what

they have or don't have between their legs.

A little more than a year ago, Dad drew up a contract, faxed it to me and sent me \$50,000 when I found this duplex in the hills.

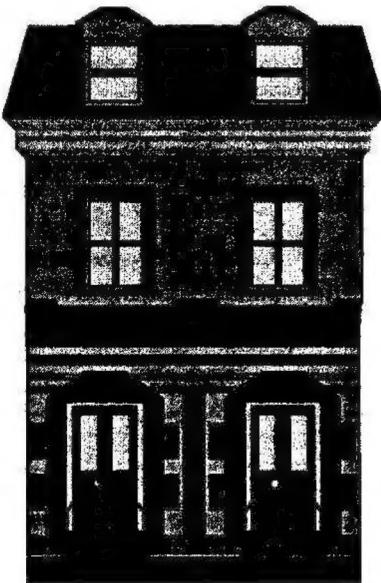
"The only condition is that you take the genetics test when I'm ready to do it too," said Dad. "And you'll let your family visit you?"

"Sure, whichever one wants to visit first," I said.

I wish both my families -- my biological one and my chosen one -- could just settle down and let me be. Being out doesn't mean wearing a "Bi & Proud" button all the time. It simply means that when I'm home for Christmas I want to be able to freely talk about the girls and guys I'm dating. When I'm at a gay club, I want to be able to mention a cute woman who turns my head. Bisexuals rarely feel fully out in either family, but that's the fault of the family.

The first time I told this story, I got dozens of calls from friends and strangers saying they had similar situations with their parents. Many were far worse. People who hear this story mistakenly think my father and I are estranged. No, even now I talk to him every day. We talk finances, movies, gardening, about my mother, about my sister and her husband -- almost everything except who I'm dating, unless it's a woman. He invests my money, he does my taxes and we still spend Christmas together.

My father has a heart condition and hasn't yet been well enough to take the blood test, and the agreement is that we have to do it together. Until then, we'll talk about other things, and end our calls with "Love you." I have no doubt that I am his son, just as I have no doubt that I'm part of my gay family, too. It doesn't matter who I'm dating, although for some reason it seems to matter to a whole lot of other people. So, Mom, Dad and the rest of my extended family out there, I'm not embarrassing you. I just want to be open about my sexuality, my attractions, my relationships and my interests in an honest and full way. I want to be out, and that means all the way out. I don't feel like I'm in one family or another, because I'm part of your family no matter what blood tests say. And, that's all that should matter.



On my latest birthday, when I sounded a little lonely and depressed, my Dad called from Florida and tried to offer solace.

"You know you'll always have a place you can come home to," he offered.

✓  
"Yeah, I know Dad, you helped me buy it," I said flatly.

And the more I own it, the more bisexual it becomes, and the more of the "out" bi community seems to come to congregate here.

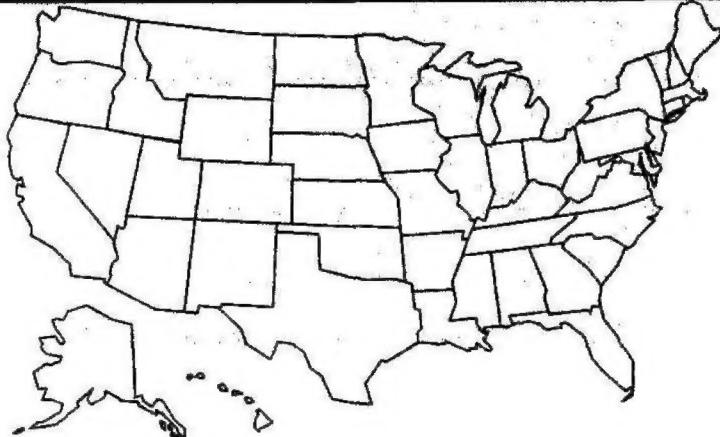
# Regional News

Regional News Editor  
Wendy Naumann

Regional Delegates and members can send in Regional News pieces and Regional Reports directly to:

Wendy Naumann  
1626 D Street #304, Lincoln, NE 68502  
(402) 476-0314

for you virtual reality bi's you can also e-mail:  
[wnaumann@unlinfo.unl.edu](mailto:wnaumann@unlinfo.unl.edu)  
(*Editrix note: Wendy asks that whenever possible to send her stuff via e-mail.*)



## Northeast Region

The third annual BiCamp was held on August 2-4, 1996 at Red Mill Brook National Forest in Southern Vermont. Campers provide their own tent, food, and transportation (sharing was encouraged). Clothing -optional swimming was just a short drive away at "The Ledges", New England's premier naturist fresh water swimming location. All this was for the low price of \$15 to \$35. Biversity Boston asked campers to contribute according to their ability. See you there next year!

## Tri-State Region

The second Bisexual Pride March in New York City was held on June 29th. The march started in Washington Square Park and proceeded west through Greenwich Village.

The Tri-State Region held a regional conference on July 19- 20 at the NYC Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center. The agenda began with a reception on Friday evening followed by workshops on Saturday morning. On Saturday afternoon, there was open discussion and forum.

A Bi-Friendly Orientation was held on June 11 at the Charas Center in New York City. The event was co-sponsored by the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, the New York Area Bisexual Network (NYABN), and BiRequest. The stated purpose of the orientation was to introduce bi-friendly groups to the bisexual community and introduce bisexual groups to the les/bi/gay/trans community. 50-60 groups were represented and the orientation was a good opportunity for individuals to meet representatives from many groups and learn about the wide range of activities available in the greater NYC area.

## Mid-Atlantic Region

The Mid-Atlantic Region just held its second annual Regional Retreat. Despite cold rainy weather, the participants' spirits were not dampened and everyone felt it was a success. A post-retreat meeting was held last week to discuss what worked, what didn't work, and what could be better.

A committee, with representation from three states and the District of Columbia, was formed to start work on the third annual retreat. The first order of business is a survey to find out what ideas Mid-Atlantic bi's have. The second order of business was fundraising. Planning Committee members from several cities agreed to hold local fundraisers. For more information about the Mid-Atlantic Retreat, to participate in the retreat survey, or for general information about the Mid-Atlantic Region, contact Marcella or Margaret, the regional delegates.

The BiNetwork of DC held a pre-Pride party in a private home on Saturday night, June 8. The party included donated pizza and many other goodies, and gave local bisexuals the opportunity to gear up for the DC Freedom Festival held on June 9th. There was also a BNDC/BiNet USA

Get involved now!!

Contact: **Wendy Naumann**  
**Regional Delegates**

Mid-Atlantic Region booth at the Freedom Festival.

There will be a BiNet/DC-sponsored social Youth Group (under 30) starting. The first gathering was held on July 9 at Food for Thought in the Dupont Circle. Any bi person under 30 is welcome. Please spread the word, and if you have any questions, you can contact Heidi at <[heidijo@wam.umd.edu](mailto:heidijo@wam.umd.edu)>

## Southeast Region

Donna Persinger and Kate Clemm, with the assistance of Davyd and Renee Scay, of North Carolina Bisexual Network (NCBiNet) conducted a successful "Bisexuality 101" workshop at NC Pride 96 in Winston-Salem, NC on June 9th. According to local participants, there has never been any kind of organized bisexual group in the Triad (Winston-Salem, High Point, and Greensboro, NC), but there were nearly 30 bisexuals who attended the workshop. As a direct result of the workshop, and the networking that ensued, there is a great interest in forming a Triad bisexual network, and NCBiNet gained nine new members. On the following day, rally bi speaker Kathy Grim

*(Continued on page 9)*

(Continued from page 8)

gave a thoughtful and well received speech, and a group of high-spirited bisexuals turned out for the march, accompanied by some of our gay, lesbian, straight, and transgender partners and supporters who joined us behind the NCBiNet banner.

North Carolina has two other general queer pride events this year, and members of NCBiNet and other bisexual groups have been invited to participate. At Down East Pride in Greenville, NC, NCBiNet has been invited to conduct a workshop, and Kate Clemm has been asked to speak at the rally on September 14. OUTCharlotte, the last NC state-wide queer festival of the year which boasts Charlotte bi activist Amy Sturkey on its board of directors, is currently working on its itinerary for its celebration in October.

In the Gainesville area, The Independent (a straight but not narrow publication) published a series of interviews and articles purportedly designed to allow readers to "meet" the gay community. It included interviews and pieces from members of the gay, lesbian, and transgender communities, but nothing at all about bisexuals. In response, Kate Clemm sent a letter to the editor.

Bisexuals and transgender people received local network coverage on the ABC affiliate channel in Gainesville, FL. Members of the Gainesville Bisexual Alliance were each quoted twice, complete with our organizational affiliation under our names. This coverage was a focus on Pride events going on in the area. Rob Boyte was quoted saying, "You don't have to be gay. You don't have to be straight. There's a lot of us who have a tendency that we can experience sexuality with either gender, and it's perfectly natural." The Gainesville Bisexual Alliance banner was shown briefly two or three times. Ann Shranz was probably the first person to say "transgender" on Channel 20, and Rob Boyte was probably the first person to define "bisexual" on the local newscast. Gainesville is also forming its first transgender support group.

## **Midwest Region**

Minneapolis Pride was held on June 21-23. Bi and trans visibility were reflected in the pride committee, the entertainment, the parade, and the booths. Local bi groups, along with BiNet Midwest, occupied two booths at the festivities. There is much going on in the twin cities area in the bi community, so please get involved!

If you live in the Lincoln, NE area, there will be a new bi group starting in the fall. If you are interested or know of anyone who is interested, please contact Wendy Naumann at <wnaumann@uninfo.unl.edu> or mail to 1626 D Street, #304, Lincoln, NE 68502. The purpose of the group will be for socializing and support.

The Midwest Region is still looking for someone to be a regional delegate. The region is also looking for a volunteer(s) to host the Fall Regional Meeting which is primarily a business meeting. If you are interested in either the delegate position or Fall meeting or know someone who is, please contact Wendy Naumann (information above).

## **Central Region**

### **South Central Region**

### **Southwest Region**

Ron Owens, the BiNet regional delegate, was present at The Sexual Diversity Conference for Sexual Minority Youth where Dr. Jocelyn Elder was the keynote speaker. The conference was well attended and bi inclusive. Ron spoke with Dr. Elder and handed her two brochures from the Bi Youth Initiative.

BiNet Arizona was visible at the "Pride Without Borders" festival hosting an information booth and handing out a great deal of literature. The festival included "bisexual" in the language describing the event, and BiNet Arizona was active in answering questions and gaining a few new members.

Bisexuality (Ron Owens) was also represented on a panel for a Glendale Community College human sexuality class. Last year's panel was reported to be very heated and negative. Ron did an excellent job of answering questions and allowing class members to ask personal questions about his triad family unit. Another wonderful example of how bi visibility educates us all.

BiNet Arizona is planning to continue to meet its mission of bi visibility. They will be introducing a Web page sometime in July to cyberspace. The local youth program, "Valley One In Ten", is working towards an alliance with the Bisexual Youth Initiative. BiNet Arizona is also working on coalition building with Valley of the Sun Community Center and Arizona Central Pride. Please contact Ron Owens at 602/280-9074 if you are interested in learning more about BiNet Arizona.

## **Northwest Region**

Currently this region has no Delegates and it would be great to get these 2 positions filled quickly, so that the NW Region is represented at this years Annual Meeting in San Francisco. Any one interested in volunteering as an Interim Delegate is asked to contact Alexei Guren at 206-726-8854.

## **Pacific Coast & Islands Region**

Beginning in May, various Pride parades and festivals occurred at numerous cities and towns across the state. Bisexual visibility campaigns were held at the Long Beach, Los Angeles, Sacramento and San Francisco Pride events through booths, bi-info distribution and by modifying the event's name to include bisexuals. The bi groups in these areas truly deserved big pats on their backs for coordinating the booths and volunteers, raising the necessary funding, and continuing our mission to educate and create a more inclusive community. These activists ensured that the events affirmed the international theme of "Pride Without Borders" by representing and advocating on behalf of bisexuals in these lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer festivals.

BiPOL is playing a major role in organizing the annual BiNet USA meeting which will be held August 16-18 in San Francisco. BiPOL has launched successful fundraising efforts, and coordinated other logistical details such as housing, registration, meeting spaces, publicity, volunteers and invitations to local leaders.

*The Blade*, Orange County's queer newsmagazine, ran an extensive issue in June regarding the issue of bisexuality. Some of the featured writers are Lani Kaahumanu, national coordinator Gary North, and regional delegate Francine Turner. Topics that were covered ranged from the bi movement, bi's in Orange County, to political process and Lani's bid for the Democratic vice presidential position. Following the lead of *Frontiers* magazine which ran a bisexual issue last Winter, the *Blade* finally recognizes the contribution, politics and realities of bisexuals.

Roland Sintos Coloma, one of the regional delegates for this area, was selected to participate in the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Youth Leadership Institute this summer, and underwent a week-long training in northern California with over two dozen queer youth from diverse geographical, ethnic, social and sexual orientation backgrounds. Roland also joined NGLTF's actions directed towards the Republican National Convention in San Diego, where he met other bi organizers and community folks. With this training, Roland would like to accomplish two things: (1) to provide better services, resources and networks for queer youth, and (2) to advocate for bisexual inclusion, representation and education.

Roland is also compiling a listing of all bi-specific and -inclusive organizations, rap/discussion groups and centers in the California and Pacific region with the ambitious hope that communication lines and resource sharing can be improved. So Roland would like to hear from all bi folks in this region, especially those in the Islands, and request that you provide him with your organization name, contact person, mailing and email addresses, and phone number. Feel free to drop him a line by email at <rscoloma@pop.ucr.edu> or mail him a postcard at POB 56829, Riverside, CA 92521. Let him know of your upcoming events and their outcomes as well so that we can include them in our next regional update. Until then ... In Unity!

# *BiNet USA*

PO Box 7327  
Langley Park, MD 20787  
(202) 986-7186

## National Coordinators and Regional Delegates Summer 96

### NATIONAL COORDINATORS

#### **BiNET NEWS EDITOR**

Alexei Guren  
231 Belmont Avenue East, # 108, Seattle, WA 98102  
(206) 726-8854  
[alexei\\_guren@msn.com](mailto:alexei_guren@msn.com)

#### **MEDIA SPOKESPERSON**

Stephanie Berger  
4231 Monterey Street, # 105, Oakland, CA 94611  
(510) 601-1806  
[virago@slip.net](mailto:virago@slip.net)

#### **TREASURER**

Victor Raymond  
3645 Bloomington Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407  
(612) 721-9635  
[raymond@macalstr.edu](mailto:raymond@macalstr.edu)

#### **RECORDING SECRETARY**

Gary North  
PO Box 20917, Longbeach, CA 90801  
(800) JULY-DOT  
[gibbin@aol.com](mailto:gibbin@aol.com)

#### **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

Laura Perez  
258 San Carlos, San Francisco, CA 94110  
(415) 550-1065

Arthur Freehart  
2709 Portland Ave S. #2, Minneapolis, MN 55407  
(612) 872-9613

### REGIONAL DELEGATES

#### DELEGATES FOR THE NORTHEAST REGION:

*MAINE, MASSACHUSETTS, NEW HAMPSHIRE,  
RHODE ISLAND, VERMONT*

Kirstin Isgro  
27 Germain Street, Burlington, VT 05401  
(802) 658-9554

Emily Pitts  
328 College St. #4, Burlington, VT 05401  
(802) 865-4829

#### DELEGATES FOR THE TRI-STATE REGION:

*CONNECTICUT, NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK*

Jennifer Hadlock  
176 Whitney Street, Hartford, CT 06105  
(860) 232-2643  
[jen@webspinner.smart.net](mailto:jen@webspinner.smart.net)

Juno Stewart  
Sherman Street, Hartford, CT 06105  
(860) 236-8465

#### DELEGATES FOR THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION:

*DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, DELAWARE, MARYLAND,  
PENNSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA*

Marcella Bucknam  
12907 Cookston Lane, #25, Rockville, MD 20851  
(301) 816-0373  
[quest@access.digex.net](mailto:quest@access.digex.net)

Margaret Rood  
2302 Meridian Street, Falls Church, VA 22046  
(703) 237-7930  
[mrood@netcom.com](mailto:mrood@netcom.com)

#### DELEGATES FOR THE SOUTHEAST REGION:

*ALABAMA, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, MISSISSIPPI,  
NORTH CAROLINA, PUERTO RICO, SOUTH CAROLINA,  
TENNESSEE, VIRGIN ISLANDS*

Kate Clemm  
1414 Brookside Dr., #202, Raleigh, NC 27604  
(919) 828-6191  
[keclemm@med.unc.edu](mailto:keclemm@med.unc.edu)

Carla Fischer  
PO Box 533170, Orlando, FL 32853  
(407) 898-1798

**DELEGATES FOR THE MIDWEST REGION:**

*IOWA, KANSAS (ALL OF KANSAS CITY), MINNESOTA,  
NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA,  
UPPER MICHIGAN, WISCONSIN*

Wendy Naumann  
1626 D Street #304, Lincoln, NE 68502  
(402) 476-0314  
[wnaumann@unlinfo.unl.edu](mailto:wnaumann@unlinfo.unl.edu)

1 Position Vacant

**DELEGATES FOR THE CENTRAL REGION:**

*ILLINOIS, INDIANA, KENTUCKY, LOWER MICHIGAN,  
MISSOURI, OHIO*

2 Position Vacant

**DELEGATES FOR THE SOUTH CENTRAL REGION:**

*ARKANSAS, LOUISIANA, OKLAHOMA,  
TEXAS*

Deborah Dixon  
2602 Salerno Drive, Dallas, TX 75224  
(214) 946-5852  
[morigel@argusbbs.com](mailto:morigel@argusbbs.com)

David Lewis  
4709 Twin Valley Drive, Austin, TX 78731  
(512) 458-5612  
[dave@lim.com](mailto:dave@lim.com)

**DELEGATES FOR THE SOUTHWEST REGION:**

*ARIZONA, COLORADO, NEW MEXICO,  
NEVADA, UTAH*

Linda Farrelly  
8601 N Zuni, #105, Denver, CO 80221  
(303) 430-7656

Ron Owens  
2100 W Chandler Blvd., #36-105, Chandler, AZ 85224  
(602) 280-9074

**DELEGATES FOR THE NORTHWEST REGION:**

*ALASKA, IDAHO, OREGON,  
MONTANA, WASHINGTON, WYOMING*

2 Positions Vacant

**DELEGATES FOR THE PACIFIC COAST  
AND ISLANDS REGION:**

*CALIFORNIA, GUAM, HAWAII*

Francine Turner  
354 Wisconsin Ave, Long Beach, CA 90814  
(310) 434-2247  
[fturner@netcom.com](mailto:fturner@netcom.com)

Roland Sintos Coloma  
PO Box 56829, Riverside, CA 92517  
(909) 220-3555 pager  
(909) 787-7272 work  
[rscoloma@pop.ucr.edu](mailto:rscoloma@pop.ucr.edu)

**STARTING A NEW GROUP OR  
WANT TO KNOW WHERE THE  
NEAREST GROUP IS???**

**HAVE AN EVENT YOU'D LIKE  
LISTED IN BINET NEWS???**

**DO YOU LIKE TO SEE YOUR  
ORGANIZATION OR LOCAL  
ACTIVIST PROFILED IN BINET  
NEWS???**

**CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL  
DELEGATES**

**HELP BINET USA  
WORK  
FOR YOU!!**

# PROFILES

## ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS IN THE BISEXUAL COMMUNITY

This is the place to talk about your organization. How'd it start, what's it doing and where's it going? Share its accomplishments, dreams and pitfalls. Individuals can also be profiled and they don't have to be a famous bi activist either. Just a bi or bi-friendly person whose story you think everyone should know about.

### Stephen "Donny" Donaldson, AKA Robert Martin 1946-1996

By Liz Highleyman

In 1981, as a newly emerging punk rocker away from home for the first time, I happened upon the premier issue of a punk 'zine called *Maximum Rock'n'Roll*. MRR provided my first exposure to anarchism as a political philosophy, and my first acquaintance with the remarkable individual who called himself Donny the Punk.

Upon hearing of Donny's death on July 18 due to meningitis and organ failure complicated by AIDS, I wanted to go back and re-read some of his old columns, but my collection of MRRs had long since been donated to an anarchist archive during one of my many moves. While I can't quote specific words, I remember Donny as a rebel and an iconoclast, the perfect complement to MRR's other long-time contrarian, his friend Mykel Board.

My first personal encounter came some years later, when I answered an e-mail call for submissions from Stephen Donaldson for a revised, concise version of the Encyclopedia of Homosexuality which he was editing (and which sadly was never published for political reasons). I was interested in writing a history of the bisexual movement, and Donny proved to be rich source of information as well as a skilled editor. In 1994, our roles were reversed when I co-edited his piece "The Bisexual Movement's Beginnings in the 70s: A Personal Retrospective" for the anthology *Bisexual Politics: Theories, Queries and Visions*. I'm grateful that we were able to record this part of the movement's history while Donny was still here to tell it.

Donny was one of the earliest leaders of the bisexual movement. He organized what is probably the first gay student group (a term that then included lesbians and bisexuals) at Columbia University in 1966, and later became a national leader of the Student Homophile League and the North American Conference of Homophile Organizations — despite receiving flak from fellow homophiles for being romantically involved with women and for identifying as bisexual rather than homosexual. In 1967, he was introduced by his companion JD to the Sexual Freedom League. In 1972, Donny organized a workshop that authored the "Ithaca Statement on Bisexuality," which appeared in *The Advocate* magazine and was probably the first proclamation of bi consciousness.

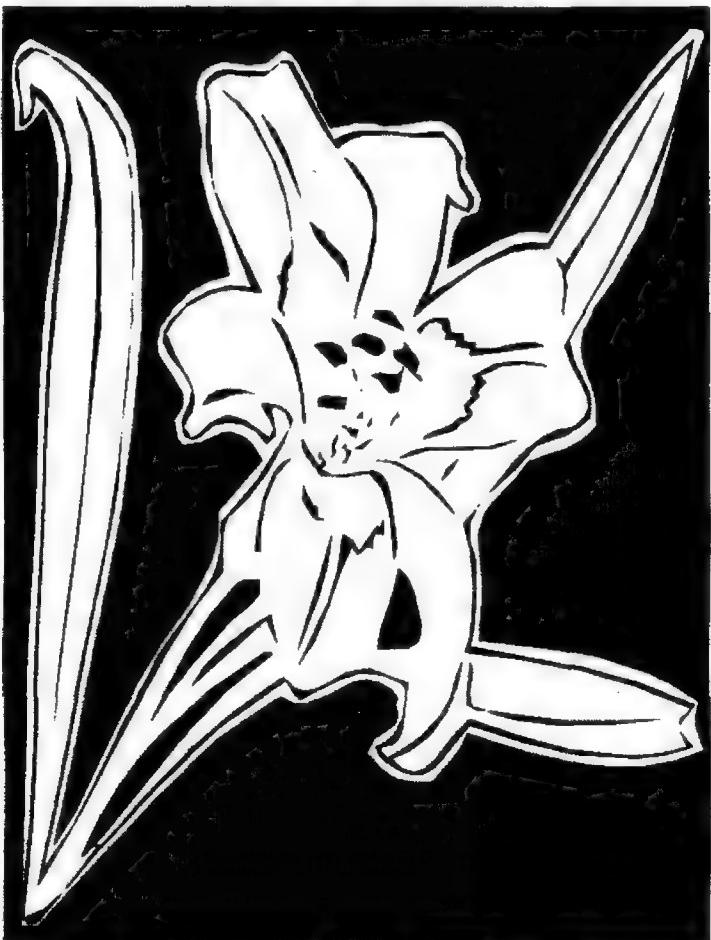
The bisexual activism of the 1970s was focused on sexual freedom and a celebration of the fluidity and non-dual nature of sexuality and gender. Donny was critical of the "gay ghetto" mentality of both the 1970s and the present. He was disappointed that the "second wave" of the bi movement in the 1980s seemed to have forgotten the movement's pioneers as it focused on identity politics and seeking acceptance from the gay and lesbian movement. Donny noted that "so much of the intellectual spadework necessary for our existence

today was done in the 1970s, and the questions we faced then still confront us today." He would no doubt be gratified that many of today's bi activists are coming full circle to once again embrace fluidity and broader notions of sexual and gender liberation.

Donny was active in the struggle against exclusion of gays from the military, having been one of the first to fight a dishonorable discharge for homosexuality — a reprise of his earlier ouster from the Boy Scouts at age 12 for similar reasons. His discharge was eventually upgraded to honorable. Even years later, Donny could still be seen at Pride events clad in his white sailor's uniform. While the issue of gays in the military is one Donny and I could not agree on, given my belief that militarism breeds homophobia and misogyny, I could admire Donny's adherence to his principles, although his combination of Quaker/Buddhist pacifism and his pride in his association with the military never ceased to puzzle me.

I first met Donny in person — and first came to know that Stephen Donaldson and Donny the Punk were one and the same — at a bi writer's retreat in Pennsylvania. Having expected Donny the Punk to be an angry young man with a mohawk haircut and a studded leather jacket, I was surprised to find him to be in his mid-40s and sporting a unique look that featured long hair and a shaved face on one side and a buzz cut and beard on the other.

In fact, Donny the Punk's *nom de plume* arose not just from his interest in punk music and culture — an interest that began in the earliest days of punk rock in the late 1970s in New York City — but also from the street/prison slang in which a "punk" is a man who gets fucked by another man. In 1973, Donny was arrested and jailed for trespassing on the White House lawn during a peaceful rally protesting the bombing of Cambodia. Despite the innocuous nature of his offense, Donny was placed in a cellblock with violent offenders by a warden who suspected that the former AP reporter might be planning to expose prison conditions. Donny was repeatedly



(Continued from page 12)

gang-raped over the course of two days in attacks so brutal that he required reparative surgery. Donny was the first survivor of prison rape to speak out publicly, and he went on to become a leader in the anti-prison-rape movement. He served as Eastern regional director of People Organized to Stop Rape of Imprisoned Persons, and in 1988 was named president of the organization, which had been renamed Stop Prison Rape (SPR). Donny also served on New York City's Task Force Against Sexual Assault.

At the Philadelphia bi camp, Donny shared his poem "Jail Is," an epic account of his struggle as a survivor of prison rape, but also of the more tender aspects of prison culture, such as the affectionate relationship that can develop between a young punk or queen and his cellblock protector. Donny had written "Jail Is" for a mainstream music magazine --*Spin* or *Rolling Stone* -- but they deemed it too raw and explicit for publication. Hopefully the work will now be made widely available as a memorial to this important aspect of Donny's life and work.

I ran into Donny again at an anarchist gathering in Philadelphia in the summer of 1993. A number of us stayed at a ratty motel on the outskirts of the city, and Donny and friends could be found at odd hours doing water ballet in the motel pool. By this time, Donny -- the man of many faces -- had adopted the look and culture of a skinhead, sharply dressed in a natty shirt, suspenders, boots, and a newly shaved head. Donny and his comrades were allied with the traditional, working-class, Mod roots of the skinhead movement, rather than with the racist boneheads who have become more widely associated with the term. Donny the Skinhead was allied with Skinheads Against Racial Prejudice, or SHARP.

In 1995 I began covering the congressional passage and subsequent trial of the Communications Decency Act (CDA) -- a brazenly unconstitutional attempt to limit the material that can be transmitted by computer -- and again Stephen Donaldson appeared. Donny served as one of twenty plaintiffs in the ACLU vs. Reno case against the CDA, and provided some of the most moving testimony of the trial as he defended his Stop Prison Rape web site, and declared that he would face the threat of jail again in order to continue to provide information and support to those who needed it. A three-judge appeals court panel ruled unanimously against the CDA in June 1996, and the case is expected to be heard by the Supreme Court in the fall.

Donny was a man of many interests. He was an active Quaker, an ordained Theravada Buddhist monk, and the first non-Indian American to be initiated into the Veerashaiva sect of Shaivite Hinduism. He traveled widely and was knowledgeable in many areas of art, music, and literature. Donny appeared on "60 Minutes," and was featured in stories in the *Boston Globe* and *Los Angeles Times*. He co-authored the book "Prison Sexual Coercion," and taught courses at the university level. An article by Donny appears in the August issue of *Harper's* magazine, which hit the stands soon after his death.

My final e-mail message from Donny came shortly before his death, in which he mused about what he should do for his upcoming 50th birthday. When I first received word that Donny was ill, I wanted to believe it was a prank. Donny had been an unwitting accomplice in a hoax a year ago involving the spurious announcement of the death of the aforementioned Mykel Board, and Donny struck me as the kind of guy who might get a kick out of watching his own funeral, a la Yossarian in *Catch 22*. But when I received the bad news from Ellen Spertus -- a SPR colleague of Donny's and a previous coworker of mine at MIT who would be unlikely to take part in any such scheme -- the grim reality sank in. How ironic in this time of renewed optimism about treatment advances for AIDS that Donny wouldn't be around to benefit.

After all the adversity he has faced in his lifetime, it's hard to believe that he is really gone. Wherever you are now, Donny, I hope it's an exciting new adventure!

## Profiles in Courage: Jamie Nabozny, 20, of Minneapolis, Minnesota

reprinted - By Jeff Walsh, *Oasis Editor*  
*Continued from the last Issues of BiNet News*

When he lost the first round in his case, Nabozny said he didn't want to appeal the decision.

"When the judge gave summary judgment to their side, I was very, very upset and I didn't want to continue and it has been a long, hard process. I have to live this stuff over and over again," he says. "The depositions are very difficult, because their lawyer is ruthless. He's very cruel, that's what he gets paid for, but it's not easy at all. So, I thought, 'Now I can let this go.' But I realized, 'No I can't.' I got letters about the decision, people saying you have to appeal, you can't let this happen."

"It really had become so much more about everyone else and less about me. Because my life is going to go on," he says. "I've worked through a lot of this stuff and am still working through it, but I'm going to go on, and I'm going to be okay."

"But there's a lot of people who aren't, some people don't make it out of high school because they kill themselves or run away and get involved in stuff that kills them," Nabozny said. "It's very important, to me, that they know they don't have to take the abuse. They don't have to go through this stuff."

Nabozny says the way Wisconsin's laws are written, "they don't protect youth, they protect adults. Minnesota has very specific laws that schools are to be safe for everyone. The Minneapolis schools have curriculum-wide stuff on gay and lesbian youth," he says. "Every school has a support group when it's needed. Minneapolis is very progressive on these issues."

"I've been involved with District 202 since I came here, which is the gay and lesbian youth center here," he says.

'I lived in fear every day'

But no matter how far away Nabozny is from Ashland, a small Wisconsin town with about 8,000 residents, the memories remain.

"I was sick all the time. I would get up in the morning and say 'I can't go to school, I can't go to school,' and my mother would say 'You have to.' She'd always know what was the matter, but I don't think they realized the extent to which it was affecting me," he says. "They'd go to school, and they'd feel like something was going to be done when they left there, and first, I guess. And I wouldn't tell them a lot of times what was going on. If I came home and told them every single day what had happened ... I didn't want to deal with it every day I came home. I just wanted to forget about it."

"Every day I had stomachaches. I lived in fear every day I got on that bus. I started walking to school because after a while, I wouldn't even take the bus anymore, it was just like my stomach was in knots," he says. "I had to live every day trying to avoid being harassed. I was very used to dealing with the name calling."

"I'd go to school and get there early so that I could get to the library before the other kids got there. The librarian was always the first person to get there, so I was always safe in there," he says. "I had to live every day like that. I had to use bathrooms usually used by teachers to avoid the kids in the bathroom. I had to think about these things every day."

His appeal cites three instances where Nabozny couldn't take it anymore, and tried to end his life.

"I tried to kill myself more than that," he says. "Those were the three attempts that were quite serious and I ended up in the hospital for."

'We support you'

Throughout the lawsuit, Nabozny said the school officials have refused to comment to any media. "Basically, they've let their lawyers handle it, and they are trying to get around the law," he says. "They cite a lot of employment cases, where if one employee beats up another employee then why is that Burger King's fault? But they're basically letting the lawyers handle it to protect their butts. They have not said one word to the media."

The judge who ruled on the case in favor of the school said he didn't dispute the harassment happened, but that the law "didn't back up what we were saying," says Nabozny.

"He said he believed everything happened to me, but since I was in a public school, I wasn't protected," he says. "Whereas if I was a criminal and I was locked up, I would have been protected. Or if I was in a mental institution, I would have been protected. School is a voluntary place to be, he said, which is absolutely absurd, because by law you're supposed to go to school."

One student at Ashland High School, when she heard of Nabozny's lawsuit, used her disgust at the school to prompt her to come out.

"The day after it was in the paper, she announced at lunch time that she was a lesbian and that she thought this was ridiculous," he says. "At this point, I had been out of school for a few years. Some of the other kids that were there were a lot more supportive and they actually got together and made a huge poster for me saying 'We support you' and then there's all these kids signatures on there and they wrote little notes to me."

#### Change for the better

"In high school, I was very withdrawn, shy. I had no friends, except for my one friend, and even then it was a minimal existence," he says. "Since I've moved out here, I have made a ton of friends. I'm doing things constantly. I go out. I have fun. I'm a very, very different person. I'm not shy whatsoever. A lot of people can't believe I ever was shy."

Nabozny submitted written testimony about the abuse he suffered in high school as part of the Hoekstra hearings in Congress recently. He also did a little lobbying while in Washington D.C. and gave packets of information to people who were going to be on the panel for the hearings, which only allowed one "pro-gay" voice to testify -- Mary Griffith, the mother of Bobby Griffith, who killed himself because of his inability to accept his sexuality.

Nabozny is also affiliated with the Log Cabin group, which is for gay Republicans, "which most people think is strange," he says. "But I do consider myself a Republican."

"The fiscal policies are the stance I'm more into. The only Republican I've ever supported is our governor Arnie Carlson, because he's not anti-gay whatsoever. He's been very supportive," Nabozny says. "I went to the Governor's Ball, after he won the election, with a male date. He's extremely liberal on a lot of issues. And also (openly gay Ohio Republican Congressman) Steve Gunderson, I met with his staff in Washington and he wants to have dinner with me now, so I'm going to try to arrange that. There is a handful of Republicans who are very supportive."

Nabozny still maintains an excellent relationship with his parents.

*To be continued in the next issue of BiNet News*

Nabozny can be reached online at <[jamie@calboun.lakes.com](mailto:jamie@calboun.lakes.com)>  
The author, Jeff Walsh, may be contacted at <[jeff@outproud.org](mailto:jeff@outproud.org)>

## NATIONAL PRESENCE IS RURAL PRESENCE: SOME THOUGHTS ON MAKING BINET USA INCLUSIVE

by Arthur Freeheart

BiNet USA's constituency is not limited to its membership. Our organizational accountability is to every bisexual in the forty-eight contiguous states, Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and Guam. That geographic vastness is divided into ten regions, each represented by two Regional Delegates. Regional Delegates coordinate outreach and organization in their respective regions.

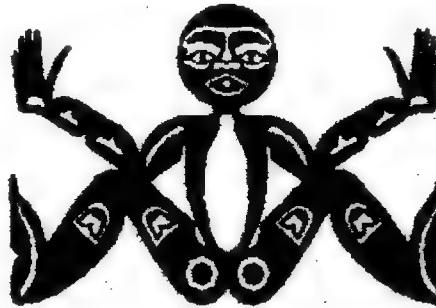
We, as an organization, have had to challenge the "bicoastal" attitudes of many activists on the Eastern (above the Mason-Dixon line) and Western seaboards. "Bicoastalism" is the belief that any significant community, innovation or initiative resides there. The coasts are where it's really happenin' and what it's all about.

I believe the next demographic myth we need to challenge is "urbanism". Queer urbanism is the belief that any self-respecting, politically empowered G/L/B/T person lives, or should live in a large city. The number of queer people who do migrate from rural areas to urban areas are tremendous.

It is imperative that those of us who came out to ourselves in the country or in small towns remember where we come from. "Forgetting" is easy after you've established yourself in a large G/L/B/T community. "Remembering" and comparing experiences is invaluable in developing a truly national organization. Forgetting and focusing on how glad we are to "be out of there" promotes rootlessness on the personal, organizational and community level.

Invisibility is a huge challenge in doing bisexual outreach. Some bisexuals choose to blend into heterosexual social systems. While some choose to blend into gay or lesbian social systems. We must never forget that many people feel they have no bisexual social system to become a part of. That perception of choicelessness is isolation.

I, as a National Coordinator of BiNet USA, would like to help develop a stronger organizational sense of how to reach rural/small town bisexuals and what they need. Please write me if you have any ideas on this or any rural/small town personal or organizing experiences to contribute. I will be researching existing G/L/B/T rural organizing groups, effort and techniques. My hope is that this groundwork will give BiNet the informational resources needed to be accountable to our non-urban constituency by making rural/smalltown organizing a part of national organizing.



# A BI INTERCONTINENTAL VIEW: THE INTERNATIONAL BISEXUAL CONFERENCE

BINET NEWS COLUMNIST FRITZ KLEIN AND  
DUTCH BINETWORK SECRETARY MAURICE SNELLEN

The International Bisexual Conference  
by Fritz Klein, San Diego, USA

The first International Bisexual Conference took place in 1991 in Amsterdam. The second, in 1992, was in London and the third, in 1994, was in New York City, to coincide with the 25th Stonewall Celebration. The fourth International Bisexual Symposium which took place in Berlin from May 24-27, 1996, was the most successful international conference to date. There were close to 400 paid participants of which 75 were from places other than Germany, representing eighteen different countries.

BINE.e.V., the German Bisexual Network, did an excellent job lining up interesting, informative, and lively speakers. As with the NYC conference in 1994, e-mail was used to great advantage. People were even able to register over the Internet. For the Berlin conference, the lectures, workshops and panels were given in either English or German (one even in Turkish). Translators were provided when appropriate.

The title of the conference this year was: "Diversity: The Many Faces of Bisexuality". This was fulfilled by the many varied talks and the great diversity of people attending.

The conference started out on a high note as it was held in City Hall ('Rotes Rathaus' in what was formerly East Berlin) and the participants filled up the main auditorium. The opening welcoming remarks by Dr. Loehe, Secretary of State, showed how tolerant Berlin still is to its gay, lesbian, and bisexual citizens. In keeping with the international theme, the other speakers that evening came from Holland, USA, Great Britain, and Germany. Champagne helped put the audience in a proper mood and the evening came to a rousing close with wonderful songs by Boris Steinberg!

The subjects of the conference were extremely varied. Some of the many subjects covered were: media representations of bisexuals, bisexual movements in various countries (Great Britain, Australia, USA), several workshops on bisexual ethics, therapy and counseling, a panel on the latest scientific research results, a number of talks and workshops on HIV/AIDS, discussion of various types of relationships, separate workshops for women and men only, an experiential workshop on massage, religion, and polyamory. Altogether there were over 55 different presentations.

A most popular event was the "Safer Sex Sluts" presentation which was great fun as well as highly educational. Throughout the conference, bisexual videos and films were shown. A local bookstore sold many copies of books dealing with every aspect of bisexuality.

In addition to the serious side of the conference, the social aspect was also stressed, as the organizers correctly felt that it was just as important for all the participants to have a chance to get to know each other as well as enjoy Berlin. There was a disco party on Saturday night at the "Ackerkeller" and a Bi-Sexy-Acid-Techno-Party on Sunday night. The "Kitkat-Club" allowed those who desired to rock and party until sunrise. Many early morning lectures were not as well attended as those in the later morning and afternoon.

The United States was quite well represented. Not only did our country have many participants but it also provided many speakers and workshop leaders. They were: Ron Fox (San Francisco), Paule Steichen

IBIS '96: The Many Faces of Bisexuality  
by Maurice Snellen, Amsterdam, Netherlands

For all of you who weren't there, I can tell you: you missed something. Fritz Klein, Liz Highleyman, Ron Fox, Robyn Ochs, just a few of the names of the people who were present and may sound familiar to some of you as researchers, writers or people otherwise busy with things concerning bisexuality. They, and so many others with them, were in Berlin to get informed about the latest research, to talk about the things that are on their minds and to show us what more can be done. Theme of the conference was 'The Many Faces of Bisexuality' or in German: 'Vielfalt bisexueller Lebensstile'. In short about the diversity of bisexuality and bisexuals, also known as biversity.

## Friday morning

Annoyingly early my alarm clock goes off. I took the day off, but still I have to get up early. I get my stuff and walk to the tram. As soon as I sit down in the tram, the special atmosphere is there for just a bit already. I'm on my way, and in a sense the symposium has already begun. Around five in the afternoon we finish our train trip, almost completely through Germany, and get off the train at last. Our first quest may begin: the street where the 'Deutsche Aids Hilfe' is located must be found. We practically find our way by tracing back people carrying information sets about the conference, on their way to their sleeping location. Upon entering the building where we need to be, we almost bump into Robin Cackett, one of the organizers of the symposium. A little later we drop into the atmosphere of the symposium: the room in front of the sign-up desk is filled with people that are also waiting, among which a few people I know. Fritz Klein, Liz Highleyman and Robyn Ochs are there. Very nice for me to be able to meet Robyn, I have been in touch with her for a long time using just e-mail. She is the one who puts the Bisexual Resource Guide together, and I take care of the Dutch section thereof. Besides the people I know from the Internet and previous conferences in Amsterdam (1991) and London (1992) I also meet Carina, the chairperson of the bi-group in The Hague.

After signing up we go looking where we have to go for our sleeping location. At first we thought we were going to stay in a youth hostel, but the organizers rented some 'guest houses'. These prove to be all the way in the north-east of Berlin, in the previously east-German side of Berlin. We refreshed ourselves somewhat in order to go to the official opening in the 'Rotes Rathaus' where we arrived much too late. Again I meet more people that I hadn't met earlier. Among others Wayne Roberts, the man who almost single-handedly runs the bi-movement in Australia. Furthermore I renewed my acquaintance with Greg Davidson, one of the most truly nice Americans I know. Greg brought a friend, Sher, who was also going to do a workshop that I would attend later during the conference. It was good to notice that the atmosphere that marks these conferences can come so sudden. Before even one official part of the conference had taken place, the atmosphere was there already at the sign-up earlier that day. An atmosphere of feeling connected, involvement, it was simply splendid.

## Saturday

As usual the conference started with a plenary session explaining the final details of all the arrangements and the accommodation, and presenting the various countries that were present. Of course there were a lot of Germans, after all the conference was held in Berlin. The rest of the people came from all kinds of countries: United States, Australia,

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Finland, United Kingdom, Israel, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland etc. They even thought of a game to get people to talk to each other, and get to know each other better. Everyone was issued five rubber bands and every time you would take the initiative to introduce yourself to someone else, you could move a rubber band over to the other person. The purpose of course being to try to get rid of the bands.

After the plenary session I decided to go to the lecture Fritz Klein would give on his recent research. The research was a follow-up on the research he did for 'The Bisexual Option'. In his new research he is looking to see if there is a statistical connection between that which people like to look at, like to touch and like to do and their sexual preference. The groups for the men were: straight, bi-straight, bi, bi-gay and gay. The groups for the women were the same, except that they lacked a specific bi group in the middle. The results of the statistics were still preliminary, but still it was obvious that certain groups had formed based on certain categories. There appeared to be clusters of activities that are alike. If you liked one of them, you would usually also like to do the others. For example: people that like to kiss, usually also like to cuddle.

Furthermore it proved that the bi-strights were by far the most experimenting group, they tried the biggest variety of activities. Meanwhile all of us had gotten hungry and it was time for lunch. Luckily we found an Italian restaurant on the grounds of the 'Frei' University called Galileo where we ate some pizza. That was also the first time I met Linda Eklöf, representative for Finland, who I spent a great deal of time with during the remainder of the conference.

In the afternoon I went to a lecture with video held by Robyn Ochs on the unrealistic image that bisexuals have in the US media. Unfortunately, due to confusion on the location of the lecture, I dropped in much too late. She had finished telling most of her story, but I was in time to look at the pieces of video she brought. Foremost they were kind of amusing, but at the same time it is very sad that the media shed such a strange light on the subject of bisexuality. If anything an item has to cause a lot of emotion to be anywhere near interesting for the TV-shows. After this I figured it was time for some more excitement and discussion. The problem was, however, that in order to get that, I could take any of about four workshops. Eventually I chose to go to 'Deconstructing Bisexuality: what do we mean by the term and what is it good for'. This discussion was led by Greg Davidson, who I mentioned before. Greg guided his audience in his own very special way through the mirage of things that are said about bisexuals and bisexuality. The fun part about this discussion was, that eventually we got to the point that we agreed that is very hard to give a solid description of bisexuality, but that as a result of that, it is also impossible to absolutely define the borders of straight and gay.

This type of discussion also tends to strand in linguistics sometimes. The English language for instance sometimes makes a difference between two terms that would translate to one and the same word in another language like Dutch or German. For example: 'sex' and 'gender' have two distinct meanings in English for a lot of people, but in Dutch there is only one word for it, which leaves only describing what it means as an alternative.

#### Saturday night

For a long time I had been uncertain about going to the conference at all, but now that I was there, I wondered why I could have ever considered not to go. Because of the uncertainty I hadn't signed up to do a workshop or lecture or anything. Greg didn't think that was important and dragged

me to the speakers social anyway. At the speakers social some more people I hadn't met yet were present and I got to talk to them. Wayne Bryant, one of the 'engines' of the Boston bi movement was new; I got to talk some more with Liz Highleyman, Jan Hansen and Lynn Dobbs; and I met Alison Rowan from the UK.

After talking to them and several other people we got on our way to the bi-party using the rental car of Jan and Lynn, but not before Jan Hansen had dressed up in a web-like outfit and I had changed into my latex stuff. The bi-party was in a place called the Ackerkeller, where it was so crowded that one could hardly get to the bar or turn oneself around. We hardly fitted in, and dancing was sort of impossible.

Earlier that day the workshop on women and AIDS that would be done by a US group called 'Safer Sex Sluts' was canceled because one of them hadn't arrived yet. She, Cianna Stewart, had meanwhile arrived and since dancing was impossible anyway and because it was rather warm inside, Liz, Cianna, Linda and I decided to sit on the stairs near the entrance and just talk some more. The party would go on till very late, but without me. I didn't want to miss anything of the day-program, so I went on my way to the 'Guest house' in time to get enough sleep.

#### Sunday

A Workshop on International bi-networking, support and development of a global bisexual network' was expanded to include the subjects of a canceled

Internet workshops. After all, the Internet is an ideal medium to keep international people in contact with each other. International contacts can be exchange of information via regular or e-mail in order to share information; support each other and thus build an international bisexual community. News can also be exchanged via postings to the Internet and press releases, but also having exchange subscriptions or sending out free issues can be interesting. On the Internet we have newsgroups, mailing lists, direct e-mail, world wide web and irc at our disposal. Support can be divided in individual support and support to groups, where the latter can again be divided in support for starting groups, existing groups and support for cooperation with lesbian and gay organizations.

For the next, the fifth, international conference in 1998 we want to raise funds to allow bisexuals from eastern-Europe, Africa or Asia to be able to attend the conference. We also decided to start an informal international organization called BiWorld that you can join to help build an international bisexual community. For the time being, we will be doing that via the Internet in three forms:

1. World Wide Web pages with loads of information. Information will be kept up-to-date and is published by Fritz Klein on his 'Bisexual Options' homepage.
2. A mailing list to keep each other informed also called 'BiWorld'. To subscribe send an e-mail to [majordomo@linker.tdc.globalxs.nl](mailto:majordomo@linker.tdc.globalxs.nl) without a subject and with 'subscribe BiWorld' in the body of the message. This list is not intended for general discussions or chit-chat, but for building the international bi community.
3. IRC Channel: #BiWorld on the EFNet set of servers. Again, the channel is not intended for general babble, but for serious discussion about building and supporting the emerging international bisexual community. We have agreed to meet every first Saturday of the month as if it were an IRC meeting. The meetings are at 23.00h CET.

#### The Safer Sex Sluts

One could hardly imagine a bigger change of subject. After Cianna Stewart had arrived Saturday evening, the second workshop that was planned for the Safer Sex Sluts (mixed this time) could still be done. The Safer Sex Sluts

*(Continued on page 17)*

*(Continued from page 5)*

## GETTING TO THE BUSINESS MEETING:

### MUNI Lines:

J-Church: exit at 18th & Dolores, walk two blocks east (towards the park) on 18th then right on Valencia.

26 (runs north/south on Valencia): exit at 18th street.

33 Ashbury runs east/west on 18th and stops at Valencia.

Any Mission street bus line (14, etc.): exit at 18th street, walk west on 18th to Valencia, left on Valencia.

BART: exit at 16th/Mission station. Walk west on 16th to Valencia. Left on Valencia to school.

### PLACES TO STAY:

Travelodge - 1707 Market Street at Valencia Street (about 7 blocks away from meeting site and on the 26 Valencia bus line) 800/578-7878 -- A flat charge of \$89 for 1 to 4 people. 20 rooms will be held until August 7th They have twin, double, and queen size beds. ALL the main transportation lines to get you to any of the tourist attractions, including Castro Street. This is probably the best deal.

The Andora Inn - 2434 Mission Street between 20th and 21st Streets (2-1/2 blocks from meeting site) 415/282-2447. \$ for 24-hour parking garage Bed and Breakfast, a conference room and library w/fireplace available to guests. Restored 1875 Victorian, 10% off for 4 night stay \$79. In the heart of the busy Mission District business area, near all transportation lines. \$79 w/shared bath for 1 or 2, \$95, \$125, \$145 w/private bath, a suite sleeps 4 for \$185.

Dolores Park Inn, 3641 17th Street (4 blocks from site) 415/861-9335. Bed and Breakfast, wine and cheese in the afternoon, restored Victorian, antiques, very quiet residential neighborhood. \$60 for 1, \$90 for two, and on up from there. (2 night minimum).

NOTE: San Francisco's Hotel Tax is 14%.

*(Maurice Snellen Continued from page 16)*

were formed, for the occasion, by Cianna Stewart, Liz Highleyman and Erich Steinman. In part because the conference was co-sponsored by the Deutsche AIDS Hilfe, they had to give safer sex some attention. The Safer Sex Sluts were not stopped by any taboo in existence about who with who and how, but simply showed what you can use to make sex safer. Cianna started the workshop by getting the audience involved, asking them what they thought about when thinking of sex. Which body parts, things you can do, toys you can use. Slowly she moved into a story saying that you might not do all the things that they would show, but that we would at least be safer than when we were before the workshop. Having said that, she started talking about how many people find that condoms are annoying because they interrupt what they are doing. One of the people in the audience was asked to hold up his hand. Cianna started stroking three of his fingers that she held together as if they were a dick, and licked them and then all of a sudden, there was a condom around the fingers. It proved that she had put a condom on his hand using her mouth and moreover, that the condom had been in her mouth without anyone noticing it since the beginning of the workshop. She then repeated the trick on a dildo to show that it doesn't just work with the relatively easy shape of the fingers, but also with something that looks like a dick. The trick is to gently use your teeth to roll the condom over the edge. The Safer Sex Sluts then went on showing all kinds of other fun things to do or use to make your sex safer, like using latex gloves or kitchen plastic wrap.

### Monday

The only official program-item left for the Monday was the closing plenary session where the organizers and of course the speakers were thanked for the work they had put in the organizing of the conference and the workshops, lectures and discussions they had done. Also, we made an appointment for a new conference. It will be held in 1998 in Boston and Wayne Bryant will be our chief organizer. I'm certain I want to be there!

If there is one thing that has stayed with me about this conference and that I cannot remove from my memory, it is the atmosphere. An atmosphere of solidarity, the intimacy of the people, an atmosphere of so much being yourself, not having to explain yourself because nothing is assumed and all the options are open without any strange faces. An atmosphere that is of course generated by the people of the conference: Wayne (both of them), Uschi, Jan, Lynn, Sher, Greg, Linda, Erwin, Robyn, Cianna, Miriam, Kurt, Ron, Erich, Sabine, Robin, Liz and all the other people that I may or may not remember by name and who I feel close to, and who make you painfully aware that after these few days it is over again, but at the same time make you look forward to the next conference already. They are also the people you didn't want to have to say goodbye to, who you would have loved to have around you for much longer just to enjoy each others company. Luckily a lot of them are on Internet, and I don't have to wait for 1998 to talk to them again.

You can contact Maurice Snellen at <[maurice@linker.tdc.globalxs.nl](mailto:maurice@linker.tdc.globalxs.nl)>

*(Fritz Klein Continued from page 15)*

(Cincinnati), Wayne Bryant (Boston), Beth Roberts (New York), Robyn Ochs (Boston), Regina Reinhardt (San Diego), Lynn Dobbs (SD), Jan Hansen (SD), Amity Buxton (El Cerrito), Erich Steinman (Minneapolis), Liz Highleyman (SF), Sher Lynesther (SF,SD), Cianna Stewart (SF), and Fritz Klein (SD).

One of the most important workshops that took place was the one where international cooperation and communication was strengthened and expanded. The Internet will have three new and different Bi activities: 1) a new section of the Bisexual Options web page <<http://www.adnc.com/web/fritzk/>> will feature BiWorld International News by correspondents of different countries; 2) a bi international list was established <[biworld@linker.tdc.globalxs.nl](mailto:biworld@linker.tdc.globalxs.nl)> and 3) an IRC channel will be used by people from different countries to chat. This will occur on the first Saturday of every month (10pm, GMT). For information, contact:

Maurice Snellen at: <[maurice@linker.tdc.globalxs.nl](mailto:maurice@linker.tdc.globalxs.nl)>

My own special thanks to the organizing committee in Berlin which made this conference so successful. My congratulations to Robin Cackett who worked so diligently while awaiting the birth of his baby girl, who was kind enough to be born one day after the conference.

Two cities in the USA were proposed as venues for the next international conference: Boston and San Diego. Because of its closer location to Europe (and thereby lower travel costs) and because of Wayne Bryant's drive and enthusiasm, Boston was unanimously chosen to be the city where the Fifth International Bi Conference will be held in 1998.

Hope to see all of you there.

You can contact Fritz Klein at <[fritzklein@aol.com](mailto:fritzklein@aol.com)>

# BISEXUAL SIGHTINGS

by Lani Ka'ahumanu

Send all of your Bisexual Sightings to:

aloha@slip.net or Lani Ka'ahumanu c/o BiPOL  
584 Castro Street #422 SF CA 94114 attn: sightings

## Sapphire sighting ...

Sapphire, bisexual African American author

*Interview magazine, June 1996:*

"Well, as a bisexual woman who has never been in the closet, it was very hard for me when I encountered homophobia, and I couldn't back away from that in my characters -- it would have been a disservice to what I was trying to do not to have Precious confront her ignorance. Precious has to deal with this and somehow incorporate it into dealing with her other problems. She has to go outside of her community, to people who she's been taught are in some ways her enemies, to get the help she needs. That's why I wanted her to be so young; she has the capacity to change."

NOTE: Precious is Precious Jones, one of the main characters in Sapphire's new book titled Push.

## SIGHTINGS

Supreme Court Amendment 2 Decision: "Terminal Silliness",  
*George F. Will, Washington Post, May 22, 1996*

"In 1992 a majority of Coloradans became provoked by the aggressive and successful campaigns of homosexuals and bisexuals for state and local laws protecting them against discrimination in jobs, housing, public accommodations and other transactions..."

You go, Colorado bisexual activists!

Same Gender Marriage: "... But Not a Very Good Idea, Either",  
*William J. Bennett, Washington Post, May 26, 1996*

The function of marriage is not elastic; the institution is already fragile enough. Broadening its definition to include same-sex marriage would stretch it almost beyond recognition -- and new attempts to broaden the definition still further would surely follow. ...How could they explain why we ought to deny a marriage license to a bisexual who wants to marry two people? After all, doing so would be a denial of that person's sexuality."

A Reagan crony commenting on bisexuality!

David Tuller, gay reporter *San Francisco Chronicle*, May 28, 1996, from cover note that came with his new book, *Cracks in the Iron Closet: Travels in Gay and Lesbian Russia*:

"The heart of it is my relationship with Ksyusha, the Russian lesbian who became my closest friend and companion there; my relationship with her forced me to reevaluate my certainties about my own sexuality. In describing how my experiences in Russia challenged my own (very American) preconceptions and biases, the book examines controversies that have roiled the American gay and lesbian movement: how does culture influence the expression of sexual identity? What are the limits of American models of gay and lesbian identity? Is bisexuality a fraudulent pose or a genuine orientation? What 'causes' homosexuality, anyway?"

Hey David, a bisexual in Russia and a gay man in the USA?  
What's up with that, girlfriend?

Barry Walters reviewing *Peace Beyond Passion* (Maverick),  
*MeShell Ndegeocello's new CD, Advocate, July 1996:*

"She is serious, and her vibe radiates the intensity of gangsta MCs without the prefabricated swagger. Although Ndegeocello initially sang only of her love of and frustration with the male gender (Plantation Lullabies), this lesbian-identified bisexual is now addressing her desires for women -- even female superstars of the Bible and other holy texts. ...Any album that announces itself with a single called "Leviticus: Faggot" is clearly in a confrontational class by itself. (This song) is the hardest hitting song about homophobia ever to have a shot a radio play. ...She's the fierce ruling dyke of funk, and her bold tenderness is something to behold."

YES, s'all I've got to say.

*June 29, 1996, "Ask Dr. Ruth" by Dr. Ruth Westheimer, distributed by King Features Syndicate:*

Q. I am 17 years old and feel my sexuality is like a roller-coaster ride. I feel attraction toward the same sex and the opposite sex. But what really concerns me is that I get these dreams about my friends which I feel disgusted and uncomfortable about. Is this a subconscious reaction?

A. We don't know enough yet about bisexuality, or homosexuality for that matter, to be able to tell what causes sexual orientation. The one thing I do want you to know is that you are still very young and while you might not know which way you are going to go, I am sure that at some point you will fall in love with someone of one sex or the other and so be able to climb off that roller coaster. I am concerned the media is making a big deal about bisexuality these days, even though there is just not that much hard evidence that such a state really exists. You shouldn't feel pressured into thinking that you are bisexual by what you see and hear. Just give it a little more time and see what develops.

Dr. Ruth needs more "hard evidence". Go pay her visit when she comes to your town.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

Aug. 16-18, 1996

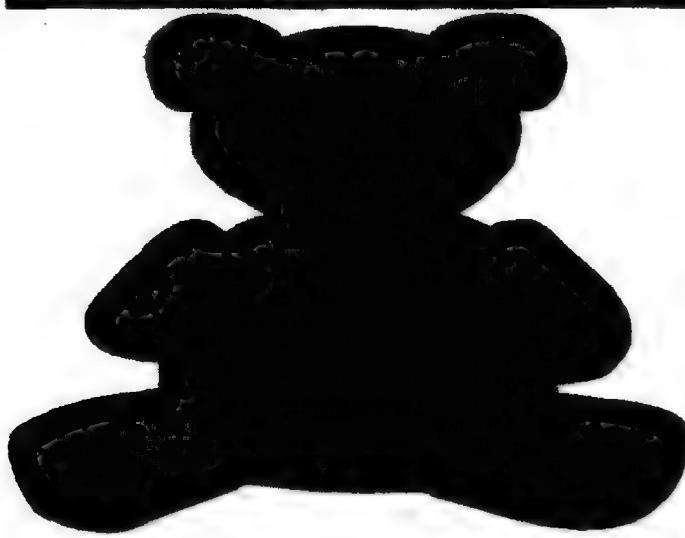
San Francisco, CA

**The Seventh Annual BiNet USA Annual Meeting**  
(This is not a Conference)

For more information please contact:

BiNet USA, PO Box 7327, Langley Park, MD 20787, (202) 986-7186

# Classifieds



## National Resources

### **International Directory of bisexual Groups now available!!!**

Edited by Robyn Ochs and published by the Bisexual Resource Center, this issue has over 100 new listings and includes bisexual and lesbian/gay/bisexual groups in 18 countries and over 40 states. You can get your copy by sending \$5 to BRC, PO Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140

### **Funding**

The Bisexual Advisory Board of CA Institute of Contemporary Arts (C.I.C.A.) announces that grants (\$200 to \$1,500) are available for projects related to bisexuality, for example: publications, academic research, seed money for new Bi organizations, community outreach projects, etc.

Applications are accepted on a continuous basis and will be reviewed every 4 months. Send for application to: Bi Adv. Board, C.I.C.A., 4545 Park Boulevard, # 207, San Diego, CA 92116, USA

### **Alternative Communities**

Across America welcome visitors/potential members. Live in the country with others who value equality, ecology and non-violence. For our booklet, write: Federation of Egalitarian Communities, Acorn Community, 1259-BN6 Indian Creek Road, Mineral, VA 23117. Free (\$3 appreciated).

### **Personals**

Bi Latina, 29, poet, artist, singer/songwriter interested in writing to Bi men and women to talk about art, blues and who we are. If you are sincere and witty please write: Ellisa S. Gutierrez, 1153 W Magnolia Avenue, San Bernardino, CA 92411

### **Prison Pen Pals**

GWM, 25, 5'7, 165lbs, Blue/Brown. Looking for older, supportive, professional man for companionship. Please write to: Tim Murphy, #114185, Kentucky State Penitentiary, PO box 128, Eddyville, KY 42038-0128

### **Classified AD Information and Guidelines**

These Classified Ad's are published free to BiNet USA members, and are placed on an "available space" basis. Ad's other than those in the Organizations section will be published in one (1) issue and then automatically deleted unless renewed by the advertiser. Ad's may be placed in one of several categories: National Resources, Personals, Prison Pen Pals, Calls for Submissions, For Sale. If your Ad does not fit one of these categories, make a suggestion. All personal information will be held in confidence, with the exception of releasing mailing address or phone number as requested as part of the Ad text.

BiNet News reserves the right to edit or reject any ad, and shall not be held responsible for any errors in publication. Ads which contain blatantly crude or sexist language will not be accepted.

BiNet USA and/or BiNet News is not responsible for claims made in any advertisement. BiNet USA and/or BiNet News is not responsible for individual actions or behavior in the placement or response to any

### **Calls for Submission**

#### **Anthology of Bisexual men.**

Essays are now being accepted for a collection of political, historical, and theoretical essays about bisexual men in the United States. This will be the first anthology to focus on bisexual men and the first book to have most of the contributors be bisexual men (essays by bisexual women which address their experiences with bisexual men will also be accepted). The deadline for submissions is Oct. 1. For guidelines or more information, contact Brett Beemyn, P.O. Box 584, Iowa City, Iowa 52244 (SASE appreciated); 319-354-5793; brett-beemyn@uiowa.edu

#### **Essays: About Bisexual men**

A project of the Portland Bisexual Alliance. We are looking for submissions from men, women, and anyone in between on the subject of bisexual men. An essay should cover only one topic and photos/poems should be centered around the subject of bisexual men. Please send your work or inquiries to: Portland Bisexual Alliance, Portland, Oregon, PO Box 412, Portland, Oregon 97207, Attn: Men's Book

#### **Significant Contemporary Feminists: A Biocritical Sourcebook**

Editor seeks contributors to write biographical/bibliographical essays, averaging 3000 words, on significant contemporary feminists. This book, under contract with Greenwood Press, will explore the lives and work of a diverse group of women involved with the feminist movement(s) during and since the Second Wave. The work will include fifty essays. All contributors will receive a copy of the text as payment. To indicate interest in writing on a particular person, or in having someone assigned to you, send a vita to: Jennifer Scanlon, Director of Women's Studies, SUNY, Plattsburgh, NY 12901 or email scanlonjr@splava.cc.plattsburgh.edu



"I speak without reservation  
from what I know and who I am.  
I do so with the understanding  
that all people should have the right  
to offer their voice to the chorus  
whether the result is harmony or dissonance.  
The worldsong is a colorless dirge  
without the differences that distinguish us,  
and it is that difference which should be celebrated  
not condemned.  
Should any part of my music offend you,  
please do not close your ears to it,  
just take what you can use and go on."

— *ani diFranco*

## **BiNet USA Fundraising Initiative**

The purpose of the BiNet USA Fundraising Initiative is to generate a breakthrough in funding for BiNet USA, and in doing so to create an atmosphere of sufficiency, competency, authenticity, power, responsibility, relationship, excitement, and fun around raising money for and donating money to BiNet USA.

Our goals are: To raise at least \$25,000 for BiNet USA from August 17, 1996 to August 17, 1997. To create a team of people who are committed to, and accountable for, having and keeping BiNet USA sufficiently funded. To effectively train and support all those who wish to participate in BiNet USA fundraising. To support and acknowledge all BiNet USA donors, and to provide timely, accurate, and helpful information on BiNet USA's income and expenditures percent of your income.

### **Contacts:**

Barry Saiff, 301-652-7943, [magicbarry@aol.com](mailto:magicbarry@aol.com). Regional contacts and team details forthcoming in next newsletter.

## **Rural Organizing Initiative**

Arthur Freeheart's proposal (see pg. 14) was incorporated into an official BiNet initiative.

**The following Proclamation was presented to BiNet USA by the mayor's liaison to the l/g/b/t community and signed and sealed by SF Mayor Willie Brown:**

Whereas, San Francisco is proud to be the location for the 1996 annual BiNet USA Business Membership meeting; and

Whereas, BiPOL is the host for this national meeting which will draw participating bisexual rights activists from across the country; and

Whereas, the contribution of bisexuals in developing AIDS service projects, combating discrimination, and advocating for social justice have long been undervalued or discounted by most of society; and

Whereas, this is an opportunity to affirm the dignity and worth of our bisexual friends, family members, parents, children, co-workers, neighbors and partners and to dedicate ourselves to confront biphobia and homophobia in all of its forms; and

Whereas, bisexuality is definitely not just a phase, as so many believe; now

Therefore Be It Resolved, that I, Willie L. Brown, Jr., Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, in recognition of BiNet USA and its historic role of networking bisexuals and their friends across the U.S. in the cause of social justice, do hereby proclaim this 17th day of August, 1996 as...

## **BISEXUAL PRIDE DAY in SAN FRANCISCO**

### **Corrections:**

Stephanie Berger's street address should be Montgomery Street, not Monterey  
The price for the Bisexual Resource Guide should be \$11.95, not \$8 as listed

### **Creating Change Conference:**

The National Conference for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Movement Nov. 6-10 1996 in Washington DC. Since 1988, Creating Change has been an incubator of our movement. Countless projects, campaigns, initiatives, and strategies have been conceived and launched. Keynotes - Rep Barney Frank, June Jordan and Carmen Vasquez. For more info call 202-332-6483 x3329 or <http://www.ngltf.org/cc96> As a BiNet member you get the Coop Org. rates!

## **Welcome new Central Region Delegate:**

Jeanette Agate  
7829 S Austin  
Burbank IL 60459  
(708) 424-5528

## **Welcome new National Coordinators:**

Kris Roehling 340 Hillman Ave Orlando, FL 32803 (407) 849-1146 krisr@magicnet.net	Stephen Gettman 2105 Greenwich St. Falls Church, VA 22043 (703) 534-5052 dignity@aol.com	Deb Kolodny 8123 19th Place Adelphi, MD 20783 (301) 434-1248 debraruth@aol.com
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Summary of BiNet USA Initiatives presented at Business Meeting:

### **Technologies Resource Initiative (TRI)**

Our primary mission is to facilitate the use of the Internet with BiNet USA. Objectives for 1997 are insuring access of the Internet (primarily e-mail) to all the National Coordinators and Regional Organizers, with computer software and hardware as needed. The creation of a BiNet USA e-mail address (BiNetUSA@aol.com), BiNet USA Web Page, and BiNet USA e-mail distribution lists. We will also lend our support to the Bi Youth Initiative and Bi Rural Organizing Initiative, and will work with them directly in helping them with any technologies needs

### **Bisexual Youth Initiative (BYI)**

BYI's mission is to address the needs of and advocate for bisexual youth and young adults. Due to the lack of visibility of bisexuals and young people, BYI exists to educate and coordinate the growing numbers of self-identified bisexuals and their allies.

#### **Contacts:**

Ahimsa Timoteo Bodhrán  
1006 Page Street,  
San Francisco, CA 94117-2219  
(415) 431-1312; ahimsa@sfsu.edu

Penelope Williams  
590 West 187th Street, Apt. 45,  
New York, NY 10033  
(212) 781-0123; fax (212) 426-8688

The goals we have established for the coming year are: Follow up on and gather BYI archival materials, survey materials. Create a BYI resource and organizing kit: fact sheet, a speakers training manual, and educational materials including information on safer sex for bisexuals and on organizing a bisexual youth group. Incorporate youth issues and other BYI information in the general BiNet USA press kit. Organize a Youth Institute at the 1997 BiNet USA annual business.

#### **Proposal Passed:**

Each region of Bi Net USA shall have three regional delegates. At least one regional delegate shall be between the ages of 18 and 25 years old upon her or his appointment.

"BiNet News." BiNet News., summer 1996, p. [1]. Archives of Sexuality and Gender, <link.gale.com/apps/doc/CNHBZB623590513/AHSI?u=ubcolumbia&sid=bookmark-AHSI>. Accessed 30 Dec. 2024.